(b) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

FUNCTIONAL FREEDOM TO ALL INDIA RADIO

32. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to grant functional freedom to A.I.R. as given to Doordarshan to increase its credibility among the people ;

(b) whether A.I.R. propose to introduce features like "Janvani" and "Sach Ki Parchai" "Rajni", "Newsline" etc. as telecast on T.V.; and

(c) whether Government propose to pay more attention to A.I.R. than hitherto in view of the fact that it is commonman's medium covering much greater part of population than T.V. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Even now both the media enjoy full freedom in all professional matters.

(b) Doordarshan is a visual medium, Programme formats found suitable for telecast may not necessarily be suitable for Radio also. There is, therefore, no proposal to introduce over Radio programme like "Janvani", "Sach Ki Parchai", etc. However, Radio broadcast programme like "Question Time" in English and "Prakashan ke Beech Mein" in Hindi in the National programmes series.

In these programmes heads of public sector undertakings, banking institutions etc. as well as Ministers answer questions put to them by an invited audience. The stations in the network also broadcast programme like "People Forum" and other field based programmes to focus attention on the problems of comman man

(c) It is not correct that sufficient attention had not been paid for the development of AIR. The present network of AIR consisting of 88 stations is covering 90 percent of the population in the country. During the 7th Plan a provision of Rs. 700 crores has been earmarked for the development of AIR. After completion of the schemes included in the 7th Plan, the number of AIR stations will go up to 203 and the population coverage will extand to 97.5 per cent.

Restructuring the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

33. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : What action Government propose to take on the suggestion for restructuring the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the lines of the Railway Board, with an Information Board comprising professional heads of media units to render policy advice to the Minister leaving the Secretary of the Ministry only to deal with financial and administrative matters with a view to developing a relationship between Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Doordarshan with urgent need of functional autonomy for Doordarshan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SHRI V. N. GADGIL): The Second Press Commission made a recommendation for restructuring the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the lines of the Railway Board. The Govermment has not yet taken a final decision on the recommendations of the Commission.